

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,642,599 to *Watabe*. Claims 3-6 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled, and claims 3-7 remain in the application.

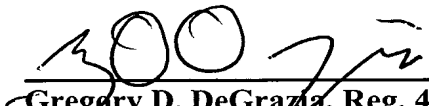
The Examiner has set forth a scope of patentability as being based upon the limitations set forth in dependent claims 3, 4, 5, and 6. Therefore, the Applicant has amended each of these dependent claims to read in independent form by including the limitations recited in independent claims 1. Furthermore, independent claim 7 has been amended to include the product characteristics set forth in independent claim 3, as these limitations have been identified by the Examiner as being allowable subject matter over *Watabe*.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that remaining claims 3-7 have been placed in a condition for allowance, and such allowance is requested from the Examiner.

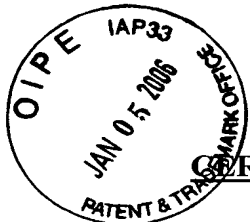
Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$200.00 as required for the filing of this Amendment. If there are any additional fees due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account for those additional fees or credit the account for any overpayments regarding this Amendment.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

  
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Dated: January 5, 2006



**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Amendment** and fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," Mailing Label No. **EV564946387US** and addressed to Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **January 5, 2006**.

  
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Tracy L. Smith

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